

Ending atrocities and safeguarding rights in Sudan

Seventeen months after it broke out in April 2023, the war in Sudan continues to occasion some of the most atrocious violations. In [the resolution](#) that it adopted in August 2024, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Commission) expressed deep concern 'by the deliberate targeting of civilians in violation of international humanitarian law ... and the deliberate attacks on hospitals and medical facilities, while both sides refuse on hospitals and medical facilities, while both sides refuse to respect negotiated ceasefire.' It further expressed extreme concern by the 'upsurge of attacks on civilians resulting in violations of several rights guaranteed by the African Charter, including the right to life, to respect for dignity, to liberty and security of persons, to freedom of movement and to freedom of expression and among others.'

In her statement on these violations unfolding in the context of this war, the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, Alice Nderitu, [rang the alarm](#) that 'there is real and growing' risk of genocide in Sudan. This comes against the background of the mass atrocities that the Rapid Support Forces unleashed against black African in El Geneina in June 2023 and the siege that it laid on El Fashar, the Capital of North Darfur, which is the only major city in Darfur outside RSF's control. The [United Nations' Independent Fact-Finding Mission for Sudan](#) in its first report presented in September 2024 established that both 'the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), as well as their respective allies, were found to be responsible for patterns of large-scale violations, including indiscriminate and direct attacks carried out through airstrikes and shelling against civilians, schools, hospitals, communication networks and vital water and electricity supplies.'

Sudan is the largest displacement crisis in the world. The atrocities also involved rape and other sexual violence. Following the decision of the African Union (AU) Peace and Security Council requesting the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to

undertake investigation into the violation of human and peoples' rights in Sudan in collaboration with the AU Commission, the African Commission adopted [a resolution establishing a fact finding mission](#).

Against the background of the foregoing and in pursuit of advancing the end of atrocities, the Country Rapporteur for human rights in Sudan, Commissioner Hatem Essaïem, and the Focal Point on Human Rights in Conflict Situations, Commissioner Solomon Ayele Dersso, jointly convene this special panel on the Situation in Sudan.

The Panel aims to provide a platform for reflecting on the state of human rights in the conflict in Sudan. It additionally aims at examining the avenues for monitoring, documenting and reporting on the human and peoples' rights violations and for advancing the protection of civilians. In so doing, the Panel facilitates discussion on ways and means of effectively enhancing the role of the African Commission working in collaboration with all stakeholders in ventilating the work of Sudanese in advancing civilian protection and in activating African Commission's investigation mission.

Agenda

- Keynote Address by **Honourable Commissioner Hatem Essaïem**, Country Rapporteur for Sudan
- Speaker **Iklas Elsa**, Darfur Advocacy Group
- Speaker **Amir Suliman**, Africa Centre for Justice and Peace Studies
- Speaker **Allan Ngari**, Human Rights Watch
- Moderator **Honourable Commissioner Solomon Ayele Dersso**, Focal Point on Human Rights in Conflict Situations